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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4779

INFO RUCNARF/ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUCNCLC/CHILD LABOR COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHOO/CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHXI/LABOR COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUCNCRI/VIENNA CRIME COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA PRIORITY 8177

RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA PRIORITY 0557

RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE PRIORITY 1867

RUEHKS/AMCONSUL SAPPORO PRIORITY 8768

RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

RHMFIS/FBI WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEAWJA/JUSTICE DEPT WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 001528

SIPDIS

EAP/J, EAP/RSP, L/LEI, G/TIP

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TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [KCRM](#) [KWMN](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: JAPAN REACTS NEGATIVELY TO TIP REPORT TIER RANKING

REF: STATE 58425

Classified By: Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) Summary: Japan is very disappointed with being ranked Tier 2 in the 2008 TIP Report, DVM Kawai told the DCM June 4.

The result will make it harder for Japan to cooperate with the United States in preparing the next report. In addition, Japan is being held to a different standard than Tier 1 countries, Kawai complained. Japan has made progress in many areas, replied the DCM, but the United States remains concerned about issues such as labor trafficking and victim identification. End Summary.

Tier ranking exacerbates "cooperation fatigue"

12. (C) Japan takes trafficking in persons seriously, Deputy Vice Minister for Foreign Policy Chikao Kawai told the DCM June 4. Human trafficking in Japan is a Japanese issue, unrelated to the U.S.-Japan relationship. MOFA has worked closely with agencies throughout the government to address Japan's trafficking problem, and will continue to do so, Kawai stated. In addition, responding to U.S. requests for information and other cooperation has placed a tremendous burden on Japanese officials. The Tier 2 ranking is "a very disappointing result, very regrettable," said Kawai. The ranking has sent the signal to Japanese government agencies that cooperation with the United States is in vain. The Japanese government will discuss whether to continue cooperation in the future, Kawai finished, adding that the United States should be reporting its own progress to Japan as well.

13. (C) Japan is very disappointed with the Tier 2 ranking, Deputy Director General for Foreign Policy Masatoshi Shimbo continued. Japanese agencies are feeling "cooperation fatigue," after having worked so hard to fulfill U.S. requests for information. The report's language about Japanese law not criminalizing labor recruiting through fraud is "completely false," said Shimbo, asserting that the misunderstanding could have been avoided by setting up a DVC between the Ministry of Justice and G/TIP. In addition, it is unacceptable that the report contains references to information obtained from NGOs that was not double-checked with MOFA. The Tier 2 ranking threatens Japan's ability to provide information to the Embassy. "The issue is not whether the United States will work with Japan, the issue is

whether Japan will work with the United States," concluded Shimbo.

¶4. (C) There are a number of areas where Japan has made progress in the fight against trafficking in persons, the DCM replied, conveying reftel talking points. However, the United States remains concerned about several areas, including labor law enforcement and victim identification. The United States hopes that Japan will continue to cooperate, the DCM added, promising to register Japan's disappointment with Washington.

Ranking process unfair

¶5. (C) Japan is being held to a different standard than Tier 1 countries, Shimbo continued. The Japanese government has raised the question of fairness with the United States several times,